

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace all prior listing of the claims with the following:

1. (Original) A method of insulating a subsea structure, the method comprising:
injecting a substance into the subsea structure;
allowing said substance to form a gel, wherein the formed gel has a dynamic viscosity of more than 1000Pa.S.
2. Cancelled
3. (Original) A method as claimed in either preceding claim, wherein the substance comprises a hydrocarbon.
4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the formed gel retains its integrity unsupported.
5. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the substance is a pourable fluid prior to forming the gel.
6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein cenospheres or microspheres are added to the substance.
7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein spheres enclosing hydrocarbon gas are added to the substance.
8. Cancelled
9. Cancelled

10. (Currently amended). A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the subsea structure comprises a conduit, said conduit enclosing a second conduit and the method comprises recovering hydrocarbons within the second conduit.

11. Cancelled

12. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any claim 11~~10, wherein the gel is adapted to transfer a portion of the hydrostatic pressure on the first conduit onto the second conduit.

13. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 10 to 12~~, wherein the thermal properties of the gel ~~is~~are varied over the length of a conduit or series of conduits.

14. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the substance comprises a polymeric compound and a transition metal salt.

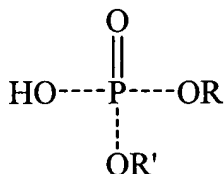
15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein at least one of the polymeric compound and transition metal salt is encapsulated in wax.

16. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 14 ~~or claim 15~~, wherein the polymeric compound comprises an ortho-phosphate.

17. Cancelled

18. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the orthophosphate comprises an orthophosphate ester.

19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the orthophosphate ester has the structure according to formula I:



Formula I

wherein R is a straight or branched chain alkyl or alkaryl group having about 6 to about 18 carbon atoms and R' is hydrogen or an aryl, alkaryl or alkyl group having about up to 18 carbon atoms.

20. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 16 to 19~~, wherein about 0.3% to 3.0 wt% of the phosphate is added to the substance.

21. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 20~~, wherein the transition metal salt and polymeric compound are added in an equimolar ratio.

22. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of claims 14 to 18~~, wherein the transition metal salt comprises a ferric salt.

23. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the ferric salt is selected from the group consisting of ferric sulphate, ferric citrate, ferric ammonium sulphate, ferric ammonium citrate, ferric chloride, and ferric gluconate.

Claims 24 - 35 Cancelled

36. (Currently amended) A method of insulating a submerged conduit, the method comprising the steps of:

applying at least one substance comprising a hydrocarbon to the conduit before it is submerged; then,

submerging the conduit under water; and

allowing the substance to form a gel with a dynamic viscosity of more than 1000Pa.S.

37. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 36, wherein the ~~tubular~~ conduit comprises further ~~tubulars~~ conduits enclosed therein.

38. Cancelled

39. Cancelled